

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting Notes
Meeting Date: January 20, 2010

Members present: Mary Barton; Michael Giangreco; Ann Czar; Sandy Bartley; Peggy Wilson; Alice Angney; Karen Woolsey; Adrienne Fisher; Eileen Guyette; Ernie Wheeler; Susan Marks

Discussion/ Topic	Suggested Actions/Follow-up	Person Responsible	Timeline
<p>TOPIC 1: Meeting the new VT-DOE Attorney, Susan Marks – Susan recently came to the Department from California, where she had served as a special education attorney for the San Francisco School District. She has been involved in education law for about 15 years. Besides catching up to speed with Vermont issues, Susan has been helping with the rewriting of the special education rules and creating a list for future rule revisions to Part B and Part C rules. She has been attending regional SPED Directors meeting to introduce herself around the state. Susan has also been reviewing proposed legislation. Another area Susan has been working on includes drafting a field memo on transportation.</p> <p>In other Legal Department news, Heather Gauvin has been hired to replace Susan Boyd.</p>	<p>Susan.Marks@state.vt.us</p> <p>A new definition of adverse effect is being considered that will include both academic and functional needs. A panel will be established to determine what to change it to, as well as how and when to introduce it.</p> <p>Heather's office number is 828-3136</p>		

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<p>TOPIC 2: State Board Follow Up</p> <p>Letter to Commissioner and State Board Chairperson, thanking them for the opportunity to speak before the School Board hear our main points and our requests for further study. Could he facilitate a further response to our concerns?</p>	<p>Michael to follow up with State Board Chair, informally first,</p>		
<p>TOPIC 3: New Rules – are on there way to the Board for approval and then to Legislative Review for completion by March 31st, implementation to begin in the Fall of 2010.</p>			
<p>TOPIC 4: Annual Budget: Do we have a budget? DO we have a say as to how the money is used? Hard to get parent representatives on a \$50 a day stipend. Other state groups have been reduced to \$25 per 4-6 hour meetings. Could some members forego their stipend to and take mileage reimbursement only? Is, or has, child care ever been offered to help include parents? Would another meeting place be better so that presentation technology can be used when needed.</p>			
<p>TOPIC 5: Memo on Least Restrictive Environment definition at community sites – depending on how the service is delivered and access to community, it could be counted as a general education environment.</p>			

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TOPIC 6: Annual Performance Report - Indicator 3, student NECAP participation rate, are students opting out themselves much at grade 11? The percent proficient on the NECAP is not very helpful when, by definition, they are in the lowest 15% of their grade in at least one subject area. Scaled score data might be better than a proficiency percentage. Scores also do not include IEP "graduates" as a measure of effective special education programming and, instead, are replaced or added to by students lower on the scale.	Are we missing the big picture by focusing on Reading, Writing and Math skills for all students?		

Special Education Advisory Council Agenda

Date: March 17, 2010

Site: 133 State Street 4th Floor Conference Room (building directly to the left of the State House) Montpelier, VT

Time: 12:00 PM -3:00 PM

Facilitator: Mary Barton

Note taker: Ernie Wheeler

Timekeeper: Eileen Guyette

TIME	TOPIC	WHO	ITEM TYPE*	MEMBER(S) TO COMMENT
12:00	State Updates	Karin Edwards		
12:30	Meeting Minutes			
12:45	Ann Halvorsen's Visit	Michael Giangreco	Information	
1:30	Legislation Review		Information/Discussion	
2:30	Meeting Room Change? Retreat Agenda for May		Information/Discussion	
2:45	Adjournment			
	School Quality Standards	All	Homework for review at our next meeting	